REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application.

However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the

Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding

rejection. Dependent claim 5 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. In

addition, new claims 15-22 are submitted herewith. New claims 15-22 correspond to

claims 6-11, except that they do not include means plus function language and they

do not include the "reading" language.

Claim rejection-35 U.S.C. §112:

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claim 5

has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is

respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 5 under 35

U.S.C. §112.

Art Rejections:

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly

anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,752,053, hereinafter *Takakura. Takakura* discloses

a document processing apparatus for processing document and associated format

information. According to the specification, document data is input as character

images, figure images and picture images. See column 5, lines 19-22, wherein

reference numerals 15 and 19 are denoted as character images, 16 and 20 indicate

figure images, and 17 and 21 denote picture images. The Examiner's attention is

also directed to column 5, lines 34-36, wherein it is indicated that Figure 3a shows a

character input edit menu. Accordingly, in the operation of *Takakura*, characters are

input as character code or character data.

In order to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the applied prior art, the claims have been amended to indicate that numbers are recognized in image data. Thus, the numbers according to the present invention are recognized in image data, and are not input as character codes or character data. This feature is not taught by *Takakura*.

With regard to the disclosed exemplary embodiments, the Examiner's attention is directed to page 12, paragraph 51, wherein the character recognition unit 11 is disclosed as extracting character information from images. See also paragraph 72, wherein it indicates that character information is extracted from character images. Accordingly, the present invention differs significantly from *Takakura* in that the present invention recognizes numbers from image data and does not initially receive the recognized numbers as character code or character data.

In view of these differences, and the claim amendments that emphasize such differences, the Examiner is respectfully urged to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-14 based on *Takakura*.

To further define the protection to which Applicants are entitled, new claims 15-19 are also submitted herewith. New claims 15-22 are similar to claims 6-11, except that they have been drafted to avoid the use of means plus function language and they do not include the "reading" language. Claims 21 – 22 relate to page numbers. Accordingly, the new claims 15-22 are also patentable over the applied prior art at least for the reasons set forth above.

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In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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